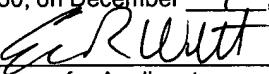




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 1, 2004.


Attorney for Applicants

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/009,254 Confirmation No.: 8298
Applicant : Elizabeth E. Adderson et al.
Title : GENES FROM VIRULENT GROUP B
STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE
Filed : December 10, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1645
Examiner : Sarvamangala J. N. Devi, Ph.D.
Docket No. : 1321.2.29.1
Customer No. : 21552

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION: LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action of October 22, 2004. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith to extend the response deadline until December 22, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner made a requirement that the Applicants elect an invention selected from the following six groups identified by the Examiner: (I) Claims 1-16 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, a vector and a host cell comprising the same, and a diagnostic PCR method; (II) Claims 17-32 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, a vector and a host cell comprising the same, and a diagnostic PCR method; (III) Claims 56-60 and 33-37 drawn to an isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and a method of immunizing a mammal by administering a protein comprising the protein; (IV) Claims 61-67 and 38-40, drawn to an isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of